

Fort Sam Houston National Historic Landmark  
Officer's Quarters (Building #102, Artillery Post)  
San Antonio  
Bexar County  
Texas

HABS No. TX-3303-18

HABS  
TEX  
15-SANT,  
39R-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Architectural and Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

HABS  
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312

OFFICER'S QUARTERS  
(Building #102, Artillery Post)

HABS No. TX-3303-18

Location: 102 Artillery Post Road, Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio,  
Bexar County, Texas

Present Owner  
and Occupant: United States Army

Present Use: Officer's Quarters

Significance: This two-and-one-half story yellow brick residence is a good example of officers housing provided on Post during the first decade of the twentieth century. Built in 1906 from standardized plans issued from the Office of the Quartermaster General, it is one of three similar plans used in the houses at the Cavalry and light artillery addition to the Post. The quarters has had little change to its original appearance.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of Erection: 1906
2. Architect: Office of the Quartermaster General; Plan #163.
3. Original and Subsequent Owners: U.S. Army from date of construction to the present.
4. Contractor: Unknown
5. Original Plan and Construction: The residence has a two-and-one-half story, three-bay by two-bay, yellow brick main block, and a rear, one-story, kitchen/servants' quarters wing. A gable roof with gray slate shingles has its ridge running north-south. An intersecting gable roof, also of slate, covers the rear wing. A two-tier front porch, ten feet deep and classically detailed, wraps around the south side of the main two-and-one-half story portion, continuing as a one-story porch along the rear wing.

The residence was built in 1906 at a cost of \$13,300.16.

6. Alterations and Additions: Only minor changes have been made to the original plan. The recent addition of aluminum frame screens on all windows significantly alters the appearance of

the residence. The frame porch floor decking has been rebuilt. Leaded glass panes, still remaining in the second floor entryway, have been replaced with plain glass in the first-floor front door. The rear basement coal shoot has been closed off with infill rock and cement. In the 1950s, the entire building was stabilized with structural tie rods. On the interior, kitchen cabinets and fixtures have been modified.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: The Artillery Post Quarters #102 is one of seven identical officers quarters built c. 1906 from standardized plans of the Office of the Quartermaster General. Thirty similar residences were built between 1905 and 1912 along Artillery Post Road. While vernacular in form, its Palladian gable end windows, classical porch detailing and denticulated cornice all suggest influences of the Georgian Revival Style popular at the time of construction.
2. Condition of Fabric: The fabric is in good to excellent condition; tie rods were added in the 1950s. The one-story rear bay is pulling away from the main two-story block at roofline with an approximate 4-5" gap in the brickwork. A roof leak in the northeast corner is causing the baseboard in the front library to rot.

The basement limestone foundation walls are presently experiencing quite a bit of rising damp with subsequent spalling of the stone.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all Dimensions: The main two-and-one-half story block (measuring approximately 43'-6" x 34') is 3-bays by 2-bays with a symmetrical front facade. The rear one-story kitchen wing measures approximately 39' x 21'.
2. Foundations: The porch rests on yellow brick and limestone piers. The structure has coursed limestone ashlar foundation walls raised three feet above grade at the front and five feet in the rear. The basement foundation walls are eighteen inches thick.

3. Wall Construction, Finish and Color: Smooth yellow brick walls in an all-stretcher bond rest on limestone ashlar foundation walls. A 5-1-5, stretcher-to-header, common bond is found in the attic.
4. Structural System, Framing: The structural system consists of brick load-bearing walls with limestone foundations 18" thick and brick walls 15" thick.
5. Porches, Stoops, Bulkheads: A two-tier front porch wraps around the south side of the main two-and-one-half story structure and continues as a one-story porch along the south side of the rear one-story bay. The front center porch entrance is five steps above grade and the rear porch entrance is ten steps above grade. Both entrances have poured concrete stairways. The two-tier porch is ten feet deep with four inch tongue-and-groove floor decking (recently replaced and already beginning to buckle). The porch is eight feet deep along the one-story wing. The porch is supported by evenly-spaced, modified Tuscan columns and enclosed by a two-foot high balustrade with turned balusters and molded handrail at the first and second tiers.

A prominent dentiled gable over the entryway has heavy return ends projecting forward from the cornice line. The first floor porch juts forward approximately 2'-6" beneath this gable. It is supported by three columns on either side of the first floor entrance with a resulting free standing balcony projection at the second floor level. The balcony is finished with corner-coupled newel posts just above the supporting first tier columns.

The side one-story porch off the rear wing, and a small area of the second-story porch of the main structure, are screened.

A rear bulkhead off the north side of the one-story wing drops six steps below grade to a raised panel double-door basement entrance. The entrance has a wood frame, outer screen doors.

An original rear coal shoot to the basement has been closed off with rock and concrete.

6. Chimneys: The structure has three chimneys. Two interior chimneys are set along the front north-south ridgeline on either side of the front entry. The north chimney straddles the roof ridge and the south chimney is directly behind. A rear exterior

gable chimney on the two-story west facade rises between the two-story and one-story bays.

All chimneys are yellow brick with narrow stacks. A triple row of corbelling with a double bond below is the only decorative feature.

7. Openings:

- a. Doorways and Doors: The center double doors at the entrance and repeated on the second story have upper rectangular panes with raised horizontal panels below. Glass in the upper panes of the second floor doors are still leaded glass. The first floor entry doors have had leaded glass with plain glass. Surrounding transom and sidelights on the first and second floor are leaded glass.

A south side rear entrance into the rear hall of the main two-story block has a single door with surrounding transom and sidelights. Entrance is off the porch.

Two other south side entrances are in the one-story bay off the porch, providing access to the kitchen and servants' quarters. The doors have glazing in the upper pane and paneling below. Doors with single-light transoms are set in segmental arch openings with gauged brick lintels above. North side bulkhead doors are double doors with horizontal panels.

- b. Windows: Two-over-two, double-hung sash windows are set in segmental brick openings with gauged brick lintels and limestone lug sills.

Front first-floor windows flanking doorways are full length with limestone sills.

Two gable-end windows in Palladian form have double-hung sash. Center two-over-two, arched windows have flush double rowlocks with keystones. Smaller flanking two-over-two sash windows have flat-arched, gauged brick lintels. All have limestone sills.

Most windows have non-conforming six-panel aluminum screens.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape and Covering: Primary structure has a gable roof with a ridge running north-south and a small intersecting gable projection. A one-story rear wing with ridge running east-west lines up with the rear two-story gable projection. The roof is clad in gray slate shingles.

The attached porch has a shallow hipped roof with standing seam tin covering.

- b. Cornice, Eaves: A heavy, raked cornice with returns on gable ends is supported by widely-spaced modillions and smaller denticulation below.

The rear one-story wing has a heavy projecting raked cornice with no dentil detail.

The porch and a one-story bay have inset metal gutters along the outer edge.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

- a. Basement: A finished basement is located beneath the one-story rear wing with both interior and exterior access. The basement is an open 37'-4" x 18' space with a single flight of interior stairs descending into the center of the room. A gas boiler and hot water heater stand at the east end of the room. Two wash basins are along the north wall.
- b. First Floor: The main center hall runs the full length of the central block, broken into two sections by a decorative plaster archway. A 20' x 14' front living room is on the south side of the hallway and a 15'-6" x 14' library is on the north side. An open stairhall is set to the left of the center hall behind the living room. The dining room is to the right, west of the library.

A rear south side entrance hall off the porch is at the west end of the center hall and leads into the pantry area to the north (pantry is also accessible from the dining room). A rear one-story wing is approximately 36'-6" x

18'-6". A large 13'-2" x 15'-6" kitchen is west of the pantry, and there is a servants' quarters and bath along the west rear wall. The back stairway to the basement is between the servants' quarters and kitchen.

- c. Second Floor: The second floor has a center hallway with two bedrooms to the north, both approximately 15'-6" x 14'-6" and a south front bedroom, approximately 18' x 14'-6" in size. Two full baths are on the west end, one off the center hallway and one off the northwest bedroom.
  - d. Attic: A formal open-well three-run staircase from the second floor continues up to the attic door. The attic is an unfinished space with exposed roof framing and brick walls. Palladian gable windows provide natural light to this open area.
2. Stairways: The main staircase runs from the first floor to attic with three flights between floors winding around an open well. It is an open string staircase continuing up to the attic.
  3. Flooring: Hardwood three-inch floor boards are in all the front rooms on the first and second floors. The bathroom floors have been tiled. The kitchen floor is carpeting over tile. The rear quarters have hardwood floors now painted gray.
  4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: All walls and ceilings have been sheetrocked in the main block on the first and second floors. The baths, kitchen, and rear servants' quarters retain plaster walls.
  5. Doorways and Doors: The doors are five-panel doors with panels horizontally set. Many still retain the brass oval doorknob plates. Doors on the second floor all have two-pane operable transoms above.

Five-panel pocket doors close off the living room, dining room, and the library from the center hall. The doors and windows have architrave molding surrounds.

6. Special Decorative Features: All radiators have an embossed floral or scroll pattern. The dining room has a muffin warmer incorporated at the center of the radiator. The dining room has a built-in sideboard now painted off-white with the center inset shelf and leaded glass cupboards on each side and above. The

drawers and shelves are below. The inset shelf is backed by three mirrored glass panels. The center panel is a movable pass-through opening from the pantry--now painted shut. A cornice molding runs across the top.

The pantry and kitchen have built-in wood frame cupboards, many with glass panels in the upper doors. All are painted off-white.

The house has five fireplaces--three on the first floor and two on the second floor--all with rectangular openings enclosed by embossed wrought iron stove doors and set in projecting chimney breasts. The openings are surrounded by varying color, narrow, glazed tiles and clay-tile hearths (the rear second-floor bedroom is an exception with blue glazed tiles continuing as hearth tiles in the front). Either Corinthian or Ionic columns flank the fireplaces and support the mantel shelf. All have beveled-edge mirrors above, except the front den fireplace.

8. Mechanical Equipment:

- a. Heating: Heating is provided by gas-fired hot water steam heat. There are radiators in every room.
- b. Lighting: There is incandescent lighting throughout.
- c. Miscellaneous: The building is equipped with a smoke alarm system.

D. Site:

1. General Setting and Orientation: The residence faces east towards the open Artillery Post parade grounds on Artillery Post Road.

The site is nicely landscaped with numerous shade trees. A rear access road runs behind the residence with a frame garage, approximately 11' x 19', for occupants' use, on the opposite side of the road.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Maps: 1905 and 1922 maps of Post held at Fort Sam Houston Military Museum (Building #123), Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and Unpublished Sources:

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering,  
Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio, Texas.

Historical Data of San Antonio and Fort Sam Houston, a donation  
of Colonel M. L. Crimmins, held in the vertical files of the  
Main Branch of the San Antonio Public Library, San Antonio,  
Texas.

2. Secondary and Published Sources:

Fort Sam Houston Historic Tour, Washington, D.C.: U.S.  
Government Printing Office, 1977, (K-1866/22). No author  
identified.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated:

Correspondence and other miscellaneous files relating to Fort Sam  
Houston, San Antonio, Texas, National Archives and Records Service,  
Washington, D.C.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The detailed survey of eighteen (18) architecturally representative  
structures, and a group of streetscapes, at Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio,  
Texas, was undertaken in 1980 by the National Architectural and  
Engineering Record (NAER) after a comprehensive inventory of the Post was  
conducted. Funding for the project was made possible through the  
cooperative efforts of the Department of the Army, Fort Sam Houston, and  
the San Antonio Conservation Society.

This project was under the general supervision of Kenneth Anderson, Acting  
Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey of the National  
Architectural and Engineering Record. Sally Tompkins of the NAER staff  
was project supervisor. Project Historian was Kathryn A. Burns, San  
Antonio, Texas. Photographic records were provided by David Kaminsky,  
Roswell, New Mexico.

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109 Artillery Post Rd.  
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**ADDENDUM TO**  
**FORT SAM HOUSTON NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**  
**OFFICER'S QUARTERS**  
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San Antonio  
Bexar County  
Texas

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**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20001